Procurement of Iron Ore in MP for Exports

6990. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in the procurement of iron ore from Madhya Pradesh for export purposes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the steps taken and proposed to be taken to increase the procurement of iron ore in the State during 1991–92 and in 1992–93?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). Iron ore is procured form Madhya Pradesh for export purposes form Bailadila mines of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC). Exports of Bailadila ore have declined over the years due to increase in domestic demand for this ore, with the commissioning of Vizag Steel Plant and coming up of a number of pig iron/sponge iron units in the country.

(c) Measure like increased capacity utilization, opening of new miens, modernisation of existnt mines and removal of infrastructural constraints are being taken to increase production of iron ore to meet domestic and export requirements.

Export of Vehicles to Vietnam

6991. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a good scope for increasing the export of vehicles such as three wheelers, two wheelers, buses, trucks and railway equipments to vietnam;

(b) if so, the strategy developed to export these items to Vietnam;

(c) the efforts made in that direction in the past; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Government have sought to promote exports through providing inputs at international prices, following a support exchange rate policy, allowing partial conversion of export earnings at market determined exchange rates, reducing controls and effecting procedural simplifications. In addition, efforts made to increase export to Vietnam include participation in the Quang Trung International Fair at Ho. Chi Minh City in Vietnam, extension of Goverment credit to Vietnam for purchase of Indian engineering items and inclusion of these items in the Trade Protocol singed between the two countries. Future strategy for increasing exports to Vietnam involves promoting Indian exporters' potential and capability through display in trade fairs, exhibitions and product publicity compaings etc. Export of vehicles is also sought to be increased through a Joint Commission between the two countries.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Oil by Iraq against dues of Indian Construction Companies

6992. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Construction Companies have some dues against the Government of Iraq;